



State of Connecticut

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PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY MARCH 1, 2010 5005 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS TAX CREDIT FOR HOTELS AND INNS THAT CREATE GREEN, ALLERGY-FREE ROOMS FOR THEIR GUESTS

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN ROY, CHAIRMAN MEYER AND MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON.

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL HB 5005 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUSINESS TAX CREDIT FOR HOTELS AND INNS THAT CREATE GREEN, ALLERGY-FREE ROOMS. THIS BILL PROVIDES A GRADUATED TAX CREDIT FOR THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE OR CONVERT EXISTING HOTEL/MOTEL ROOMS TO CLEAN, HEALTHY, REDUCED-RISK ALLERGY FREE ROOMS. THE BILL WILL HELP THOUSANDS OF CONNECTICUT AND NON-CONNECTICUT TRAVELERS AFFLICTED WITH CHRONIC ALLERGIES AND RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS SUCH AS ASTHMA WHO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TRAVEL DUE TO THE LACK OF NEEDED ROOM ACCOMMODATIONS AT HOTELS AND MOTELS.

THE TAX INCENTIVE WILL ALLOW THAT A MINIMUM OF 10% OF GUEST ROOMS BE ESTABLISHED AS ALLERGY FREE ROOMS THAT HAVE THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES: (1) ARE CLEANED AND/OR MAINTAINED WITH GREEN, NATURAL NONTOKIC CLEANING PRODUCTS (2) CONTAIN TILE OR WOOD FLOORING WITH NO CARPETING (3) CONTAIN DRAPES OR CURTAINS MADE OF SYNTHETIC, NON-SEE-THROUGH MATERIAL FOR PRIVACY, WINDOW BLINDS THAT CAN BE CLEANED OR DUSTED OR A ONE- WAY GLASS WINDOW COVERING (4) UTILIZE AIR CONDITIONING WITH A HIGH EFFICIENCY PARTICULATE AIR (HEPA) FILTER (5) PROVIDE NON-ALLERGIC BEDDING MATERIALS (6) IS FREE FROM CIGARETTE SMOKE AND (7) IS FREE FROM PETS AND PED DANDER.

THE TAX INCENTIVE WILL ALSO STIMULATE JOB GROWTH AND HELP WITH THE STATE'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY THROUGH INCREASED TOURISM. THE BILL NICELY AUGMENTS THE 'STAYCATION' EMPHASIS TO KEEP TOURISM DOLLARS WITHIN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT WHILE IT ALSO SENDS THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT WE CARE ABOUT THE NUMEROUS RESIDENTS IN OUR STATE WHO ARE HAMPERED FROM SUCH TRAVEL CURRENTLY.

BY CONSIDERING AND INCLUDING THIS TAX INCENTIVE ALONG WITH OTHER TAX CREDITS BEING CONSIDERED TO HELP STIMULATE CONNECTICUT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, WE ARE ALSO CREATING A HEALTHY TRAVEL ENVIRONMENT FOR MANY OF OUR RESIDENTS. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSIGHT IN RAISING THIS BILL AND URGE ITS PASSAGE OUT OF COMMITTEE.